



Press Release

Kansas City, Mo., April 12, 2010

For Immediate Publication

Marci McNeal
Associate Executive Director of Communications/Membership
(816) 474-4322
mmcneal@kcmba.org

37th Annual Bench-Bar & Boardroom Conference “Charting A New Course”

The Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association (KCMBBA) and the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Foundation (KCMBF) will host the 37th Annual Bench-Bar & Boardroom Conference (BBBC), May 20 – May 22, 2010 at The Lodge of Four Seasons at the Lake of the Ozarks. As the date has been moved in search of warmer weather, we are planning even more activities to take advantage of a terrific outdoor setting.

Missouri Governor Jay Nixon will be the Keynote Speaker during the Friday night dinner that also recognizes the Deans of the Trial Bar and Barons of the Boardroom award winners. Jay Nixon, the 55th and current Governor of Missouri, is a native of De Soto, Missouri, and was raised in a family dedicated to public service. After earning his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Missouri – Columbia, he returned to De Soto and began his career as an attorney. In 1986, he was elected to his first term in the Missouri State Senate, representing the citizens of Jefferson County for six years. He later served as Missouri’s Attorney General, elected to an unprecedented four terms, beginning in 1992. He established a reputation for taking on the toughest of fights and winning. He argued before the United States Supreme Court, winning a landmark case that cleared the way for campaign finance reform nationally. His lawsuit against big tobacco companies has collected billions of dollars for the state and his settlements with the insurance industry and hospitals has led to the formation of two of the largest health care foundations in the state’s history. As Governor, he has put forth an agenda designed to make government more efficient, effective and responsive to the needs of families, with focal points on jobs, health care and education.

The 2010 BBBC will include a Plenary Session covering The Great Debate – Changing the Missouri Non-Partisan Court Plan. Pat McLarney has brought together staunch supporters of both sides to present their positions along with a panel of legislators who have been deeply involved in the debate.

There will be separate conference tracks for litigators, young lawyers, corporate and business practitioners, and family law practitioners. A special thanks to the Mid-America Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel Mid-America Chapter for partnering with KCMBA on the development of the Business & Corporate Law Track for the Conference.

BBBC offers members an excellent opportunity for networking with their peers. Each year there are more than 450 members in attendance, including more than 50 members of the judiciary. Judges and practitioners will be able to discuss their views on various issues by participating in the seminars, as well as by networking at a variety of social events.

Serving as the official hosts of the event are the Bench-Bar & Boardroom Conference Co-Chairs. This year's co-chairs are:

Thomas V. Bender, KCMBA President
James A. Heeter, KCMBA President-Elect
James R. Wyrsh, KCMBF President
Honorable Thomas E. Foster, 10th Judicial District Court of Kansas, Johnson County
Honorable Cindy R. Martin, Missouri Court of Appeals, Western District
Honorable Mark D. Pfeiffer, Missouri Court of Appeals, Western District
Honorable David J. Waxse, United States District Court - District of Kansas
Honorable Matt J. Whitworth, United States District Court - Western District of Missouri
Honorable Gary Dean Witt, Missouri Court of Appeals, Western District
Honorable J. Dale Youngs, 16th Judicial Circuit Court of Missouri, Jackson County

As always, the BBBC Conference will provide attendees with the opportunity to meet with vendors who service the legal community, and bid on items in the silent auction where proceeds help to support the already established KCMBF projects such as the Voice of Justice, Lawyers for Children and Summer Law Internship Programs. Attendees can also have fun at various sports and recreation events such as a golf tournament and evening entertainment.

For registration information, please call Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association at (816) 474-4322 or visit the KCMBA Web site at www.kcmba.org for more details.

Conference Logo available upon request.

The Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association serves approximately 5,000 members in the nine-county Kansas City metro area: Johnson and Wyandotte counties in Kansas and Cass, Clay, Jackson, Johnson, Lafayette, Platte and Ray counties in Missouri. The mission of this Association is to serve our members and our community by promoting justice, professional excellence and respect for the law.